

Message Text

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ORIGIN ERDA-07

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TAGS: TECH, EGY

SUBJECT: FOSSIL ENERGY COOPERATION WITH EGYPT

REFERENCES: A) GILLESPIE (USAID DIRECTOR)/BROWN TRANSMITTAL
NOTE OF JANUARY 18, 1977; B) KOTB/BUCK LETTER OF JANUARY 6,
1977; C) STATE 64673; D) STATE 108498; E) CAIRO 8839

1. AT THE LAST NOVEMBER'S MEETING OF THE U.S./EGYPT JOINT
WORKING GROUP ON TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, THE
FOLLOWING AREAS OF FOSSIL ENERGY R AND D COOPERATION WERE
IDENTIFIED:

- ENHANCED OIL RECOVERY (RAS GHARIB OIL FIELD PROJECT).
- COAL UTILIZATION AND COAL CONVERSION (NEW PROJECTS).

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2. NSF JOINT COMMISSION WORKING GROUP IN COOPERATION WITH
OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IS LOOKING INTO THE POSSIBILITY
OF HOLDING AN INTERIM SESSION WITH ITS EGYPTIAN COUNTER-
PARTS IN CAIRO IN LATE SEPTEMBER, TO ASSESS PROGRESS IN
U.S.-EGYPTIAN SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AND TO DISCUSS

PRELIMINARY PROPOSALS FOR NEW SUBJECT AREAS OF COOPERATION.

3. ERDA IS EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE TO JOIN U.S. TEAM AND DISCUSS WITH EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS (GOE) INTENTION RE RAS GHARIB OIL FIELD FEASIBILITY STUDY AS PRESENTED IN REF B, AND THE DEGREE OF CONTINUED INTEREST OF OTHER FOSSIL ENERGY R AND D COOPERATIVE PROJECTS BEFORE THEY ARE PRESENTED TO THE NOVEMBER JOINT WORKING GROUP SESSION.

4. AS DR. KOTB, ERDA, DISCUSSED WITH SCIATT ADDISON RICHMOND SLIGHT CONFUSION APPARENT BETWEEN DR. BARKOUKY (AS REPORTED PARA 5 REF E) AND LETTER FROM EGYPTIAN EMBASSY STATING MIN PET PREFERS TO PROCEED WITH ADDITIONAL DRILLING BEFORE PURSUING RAS GHARIB PROJECT. ERDA WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ADVISING PRESENT INTEREST OF GOE IN PROCEEDING WITH FEASIBILITY STUDY UTILIZING FUNDING SOURCES SUGGESTED PARA 3 REF E.

FYI: KOTB STATES FEASIBILITY STUDY ATTACHED REF B AND QUOTE ORIGINAL RESERVOIR RESEARCH IDEA UNQUOTE ARE THE SAME. END FYI.

5. IN ORDER TO ASSESS POSSIBILITIES FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ACTIVITIES ERDA IS ALSO SEEKING EMBASSY VIEWS ON EGYPT'S POSITION CONCERNING FUTURE USE OF COAL INCLUDING SUMMARY OF ONGOING AND PLANNED COAL R AND D, UNCLASSIFIED

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INCLUDING LEVEL OF EFFORT, INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED, AMOUNT OF EGYPTIAN COAL RESERVES, LOCATION, THICKNESS OF COAL SEAMS, DEPTHS, QUALITY INCLUDING PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES OF COAL. ERDA BELIEVES THAT DR. MOHAMED ALI KAMEL, DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTER, CAIRO IS IN CHARGE OF THE COAL R AND D PROGRAM IN EGYPT. CHRISTOPHER

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